



Virginia
Regulatory
Town Hall

Exempt Action Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency Name:	Department of Labor and Industry/Safety and Health Codes Board
VAC Chapter Number:	16 VAC 25-175-1926.750 through 1926.759; 16 VAC 25-175-1926.760 (d)& (e); 16 VAC 25-175-1926.761; 16 VAC 25-175-1926.500
Regulation Title:	Safety Standards for Steel Erection, Construction Industry
Action Title:	Amendments to Safety Standards for Steel Erection, and Amendment to Fall Protection, Construction Industry
Date:	October 19, 2001

Where a regulation is exempt in part or in whole from the requirements of the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 *et seq.* of the *Code of Virginia*) (APA), the agency may provide information pertaining to the action to be included on the Regulatory Town Hall. The agency must still comply the requirements of the Virginia Register Act (§ 9-6.18 *et seq.* of the *Code of Virginia*) and file the final regulation with the Registrar in a style and format conforming with the *Virginia Register Form, Style and Procedure Manual*. The agency must also comply with Executive Order Fifty-Eight (99) which requires an assessment of the regulation's impact on the institution of the family and family stability.

Note agency actions exempt pursuant to § 9-6.14:4.1(B) do not require filing with the Registrar a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action, or at the proposed stage. When the regulation is promulgated and submitted to the Registrar, the agency need only provide a statement citing the specific Virginia Code section referencing the exemption and an authority certification letter from the Attorney General's Office. No specific format is required.

This form should be used for actions **exempt from the Administrative Process Act pursuant to § 9-6.14:4.1(C)** at the final stage. Note that agency actions exempt pursuant to § 9-6.14:4.1(C) of the APA do not require filing with the Registrar a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action, and at the proposed stage.

Summary

Please provide a brief summary of the proposed new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or the regulation being repealed. There is no need to state each provision or amendment or restate the purpose and intent of the regulation, instead give a summary of the regulatory action and alert the reader to all substantive matters or changes. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

Federal OSHA revised Subpart R of the Construction Industry Standards, (Part 1926) to enhance occupational protections provided to workers engaged in steel erection and to update the

general provisions that address steel erection. The regulation sets performance-oriented criteria, where possible, to protect employees from steel erection related hazards in the areas of hoisting and rigging, structural steel assembly, beam and column connections, joist erection, systems-engineered metal building erection, fall protection and training.

Highlights of the Revised Federal Standard

The revised final steel erection standard modifies and strengthens the standard it replaces in a number of areas. Key provisions of the revised steel erection standard include:

Site Layout and Construction Sequence

- Requires certification of proper curing of concrete in footings, piers, etc. for steel columns.
- Requires controlling contractor to provide erector with a safe site layout including pre-planning routes for hoisting loads.

Site Specific Erection Plan

- Requires pre-planning of key erection elements, including coordination with controlling contractor before erection begins, in certain circumstances.

Hoisting and Rigging

- Provides additional crane safety for steel erection.
- Minimizes employee exposure to overhead loads through pre-planning and work practice requirements.
- Prescribes proper procedure for multiple lifts (Christmas-treeing).

Structural Steel Assembly

- Provides safer walking/working surfaces by eliminating tripping hazards and minimizes slips through new slip resistance requirements.
- Provides specific work practices regarding safely landing deck bundles and promoting the prompt protection from fall hazards in interior openings.

Column Anchorage

- Requires 4 anchor bolts per column along with other column stability requirements.
- Requires procedures for adequacy of anchor bolts that have been modified in the field.

Beams and Columns

- Eliminates extremely dangerous collapse hazards associated with making double connections at columns.

Open Web Steel Joists

- Requirements minimizing collapse of lightweight steel joists by addressing need for erection bridging and method of attachment.
- Requirements for bridging terminus anchors with illustrations and drawings in a non-mandatory appendix (provided by Steel Joist Institute)
- New requirements to minimize collapse in placing loads on steel joists.

Systems-Engineered Metal Buildings

- Requirements to minimize collapse in the erection of these specialized structures which account for a major portion of steel erection in this country.

Falling Object Protection

- Performance provisions that address hazards of falling objects in steel erection.

Training

- Requires qualified person to train exposed workers in fall protection.
- Requires qualified person to train exposed workers engaged in special, high risk activities.

Paragraph (d) of §1926.760 provides criteria for fall protection equipment to meet criteria in 1926.502 and paragraph 1926.760 (e) requires that custody of fall protection equipment remain in the area where steel erection activity has been completed.

In addition to revisions to the federal Steel Erection standard in subpart R, the Fall Protection standard in subpart M of the Construction Industry Standards was also amended. Section 1926.500(a)(2)(iii) was amended to clarify that steel erection is covered exclusively by Subpart R, with the exception of towers and tanks. Section 1926.500(a)(2)(v) explains that §1926.105 covers employees engaged in the erection of tanks and communication and broadcast towers. Section 1926.500(3)(iv) was revised to specifically exclude the erection of tanks and communication and broadcast towers from the scope of §1926.502. The erection of tanks and communication and broadcast towers will continue to be covered by §1926.104.

Statement of Final Agency Action

Please provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including the date the action was taken, the name of the agency taking the action, and the title of the regulation.

On October 18, 2001, the Safety and Health Codes Board adopted an identical version of federal OSHA's revised final Rule for the Safety Standards for Steel Erection, Subpart R, amending 16 VAC 25-175-1926.750 through 1926.759, 16 VAC 25-175-1926.760 (d) and (e);

and 16 VAC 25-175-1926.761; and 16 VAC 25-175-1926.500. The SHCB did not adopt section 1926.760 (a), (b), and (c) of the federal standard. The effective date for this action is January 18, 2002.

Family Impact Statement

Please provide an analysis of the regulatory action that assesses the impact on the institution of the family and family stability including the extent to which the regulatory action will: 1) strengthen or erode the authority and rights of parents in the education, nurturing, and supervision of their children; 2) encourage or discourage economic self-sufficiency, self-pride, and the assumption of responsibility for oneself, one's spouse, and one's children and/or elderly parents; 3) strengthen or erode the marital commitment; and 4) increase or decrease disposable family income.

The amendments to these regulations have no impact on the institution of the family or family stability.